

Great praise for The Danish National Research Foundation

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During 2013, an international evaluation panel thoroughly scrutinized the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF). The panel has released its report, concluding that the DNRF is an outstanding success that has significantly raised the level of Danish research through its Centers of Excellence program.

The panel pointed out that the research carried out at the centers is of an exceptionally high level. Furthermore, the panel noted that the foundation, by encouraging and supporting the very best scientists, also achieves broad spill-over effects not only in recruiting foreign talent and top researchers to Denmark but also in developing new scientific talent.

The panel found that the foundation enjoys strong support and unreserved respect in the Danish research system, and the panel clearly recommended that the foundation be provided funding to maintain its current level of activity for at least another ten years.

On a par with the very best

The evaluation also included a bibliometric analysis of the centers' research. This analysis shows that DNRF centers can compete with the very best research institutions in the world, including Stanford and MIT, when it comes to the impact of articles in prestigious multidisciplinary journals such as Science and Nature.

Great for Denmark

"We are very proud and pleased with the evaluation. It is a great tribute to the foundation, and once again, it has been confirmed that Danish research really is world class. But most of all, it is a great tribute to the researchers who are working or who have worked day to day in the research centers. We have strived to develop an instrument that can provide a framework for promoting excellence in research, but it's in the centers that the results are obtained," said Liselotte Højgaard, chairman of the Danish National Research Foundation.

"The Danish National Research Foundation has had trust, excellence and long-term investments as its core values since the foundation was established in 1991. It has paid off, and the foundation has, in cooperation with other actors in the Danish research landscape, cultivated elite research that can be compared with the best in the world. It is very satisfying," said Morten Østergaard, minister of higher education, in a statement.

Evaluation material

The evaluation report, the bibliometric analysis and the foundation's self-evaluation can be found on the foundation's website: www.dg.dk.

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"The evaluation panel strongly recommends to enable the DNRF to continue its impressively successful operations and advises the Danish Parliament to take the necessary decisions for refunding the DNRF in such a way that the capital stock is sufficient to maintain its current annual budget of 400 mDKK in real terms for at least another 10 years."

-Wilhelm Krull,
 Chairman of the evaluation panel